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CBSE 7201

Reflection #1

*How do the ideals of social justice, collaboration, critical self-evaluation and diversity align with our course objectives and outcomes, and pertain to us in our role as pedagogues?*

As educators it is important for us to understand and incorporate the ideals of social justice, collaboration, critical-self evaluation, and diversity both inside the classroom and outside the classroom. As true pedagogues our quest for learning will be ongoing and constantly evolving. It is these ideals is that can make the difference of a good teacher and one that is highly effective. In this class we do just that, we become researchers and are forced to put them into practice. We are asked to find a topic that is of interest to you and one that can be possibly of use to you at a current school. This is a great example of having to self-evaluate. By choosing a topic that you care about it will require that you to reflect on both your professional practice and personal knowledge. Self-evaluation helps to determine if your strategies and practices are working or not. This becomes especially critical when evaluating and assessing your students and peers alike.

We are always growing and trying to master our craft, we can do this best through collaboration. We learn to work together, engage in team projects before we reach the classroom. The Brooklyn College School of Education incorporates this idea in every class and this one is no exception. We learn through research we are gaining knowledge from our peers, administrators, policy makers, and data from our school districts. As we build and create the culture in the classroom we quickly learn that we also collaborate with our students and their parents on a daily basis. Collaborating can help improve our own teaching methods, skills and strategies.

Who will teach kids good citizenship? I believe it is the schools and parents responsibility. As educators we should be committed in creating good students and good citizens so they will be able good decisions throughout their lives. We can start by practicing the ideals of social justice in the classroom. On the first day of schools we discuss rules and consequences when said rules are broken. We should always give students a voice or a platform where their voices and concerns can be heard. In order for social justice to have true meaning we encourage students to autonomous and provide support when needed. Our goal should be for students to continue striving for social justice long after they have left your classroom.

Last but not least is diversity, I saved this one for last because it is one of my favorite topics. I am a product of immigrant parents. I was born and raised in Brooklyn. I completed my elementary education (K-8) in catholic school in the 80’s. I remember that my school was not very diverse. It was made up of mostly African Americans, Hispanics, and one Caucasian girl named Tara. We never talked about what made us different only what made us the same, our faith. I never learned much about their culture and they knew nothing about mine. It wasn’t until I attended a public high school where I was exposed to whole new world of a diverse community. This is when I learned that diversity was the appreciation of what was different not the “same” as I previously thought. For me diversity was no longer a one size fits all formula. As a NYC teacher the term diversity becomes embedded in you being because you cannot escape it. Like, the School of Education you will be committed to addressing of gender, race, special needs, cultural, class, religion, etc.. Our job requires us to foster a physically, mentally, emotionally safe environment for all. In doing that we must find ways to include curriculum that is representative of all in the classroom and also keeping in mind to be sensitive. This is not an easy task, however not impossible. Teachers must reflect on their attitudes, stereotypes, and assumptions in order to become truly effective pedagogues. I believe that all the ideals of the School of Education’s Conceptual Framework prepares you for a lifetime of lessons. Great teachers periodically review these ideals and make improvements whenever needed.